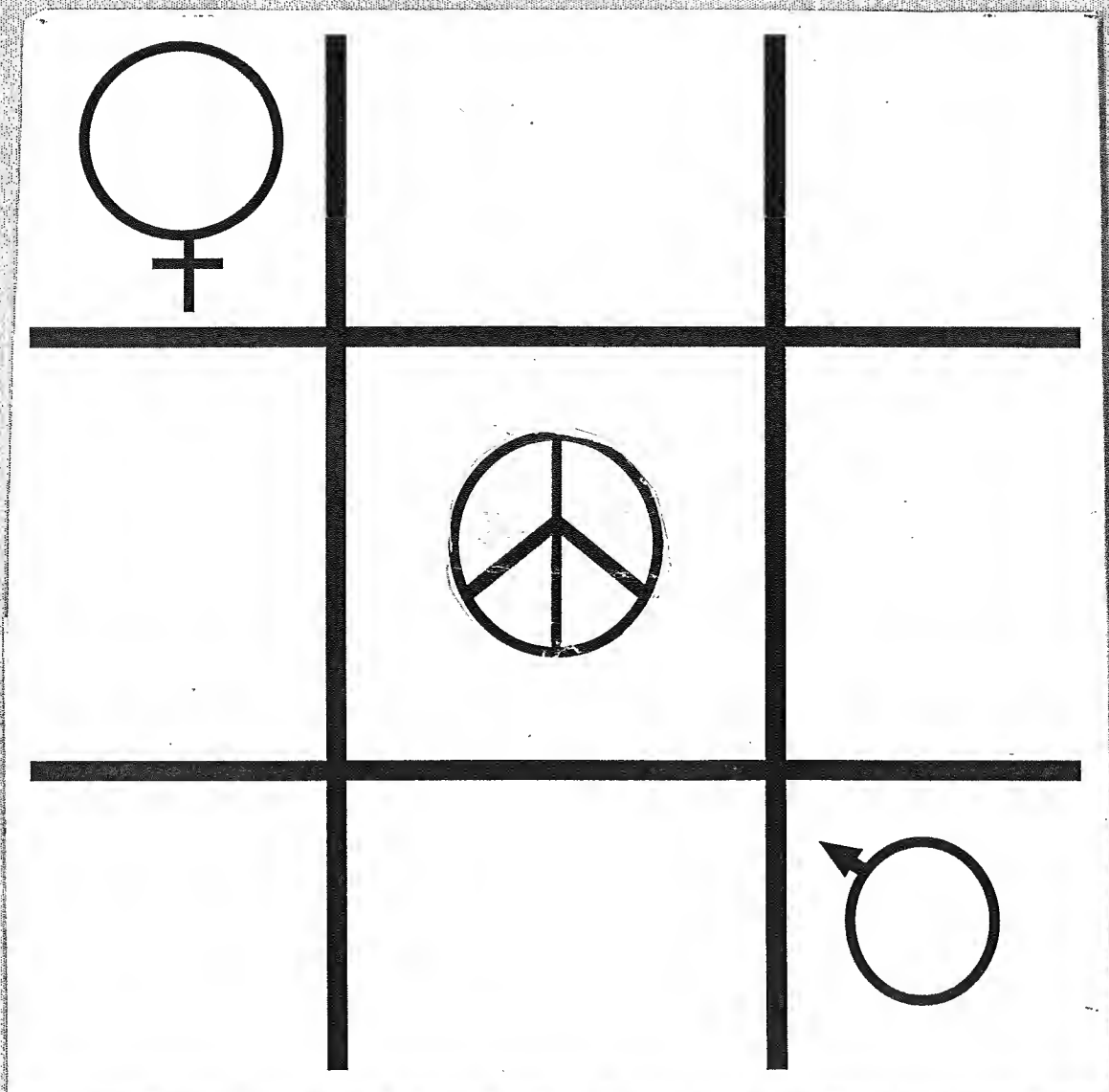


Aotearoa Youth Network



Number 15, August 1994

WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 140 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Deadline: 20th September.

Write to AYN at:
c/ - The Web Resource Centre
111 Moray Place
Dunedin.

IRD Occupation

The advertising said "Let's get serious" and for those who care there was a definite feeling that August 10th was indeed the culmination of the main concern of the education campaign this year. This was the day we would have our final opportunity to voice our anger and concern over the Todd report and its implications.

A large amount of planning and organisation had gone into this protest to try and give it that extra edge, to make an indentation on the public, the media and politicians.

The plan was to occupy Inland Revenue, the idea being to try and point out that the government's plans to cut taxation is not the answer to the country's problems. Especially when the government budget is heaping further prices onto health and education and cutting back social services. Cutting taxes will merely mean a further widening of the gap between those who have and those who have not. The fair way to create a "user friendly" system would be a progressive taxation system which meant paying taxes according to what you really earned.

The turn out for the march was reasonable, 1800-2000 students and others gathered which given the time of year and general feeling around varsity was fairly good. Those that came were enthusiastic and committed enough to stay on when the main action happened later.

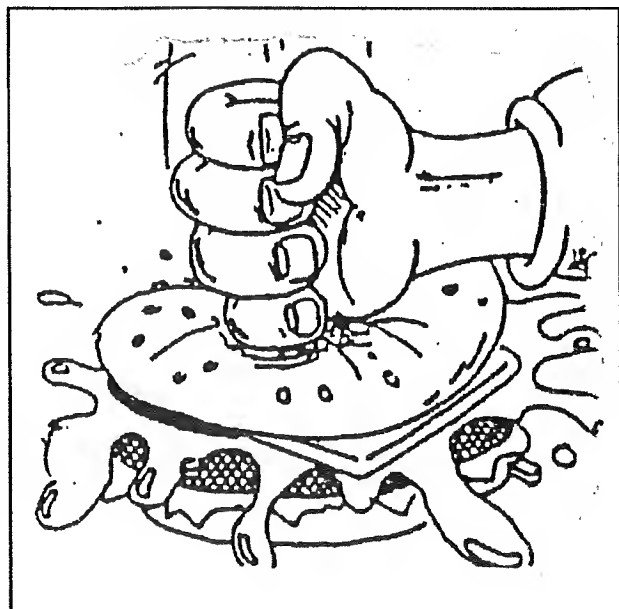
We had succeeded in keeping the real plan under wraps for the duration of

the planning which was good in terms of the police presence. In some ways though this worked against us as it was difficult to get people to trust us enough to follow at Inland Revenue. The invasion had to be undertaken quickly and with spirit if it was to succeed. In the end about 50 people got into the fourth floor, and there were others who were in the basement, after attempting to get in that way. The rest of us yelled our support to those inside.

The people inside stayed inside for about 90 minutes and left without confrontation with the police having made the point of the occupation clear. Though the numbers outside dwindled as time went by we amused ourselves with pavement chalking and other activities and were there to cheer the occupiers as they came out.

All in all things went quite well, like every protest certain things could have been better but with some improvisation by all, events proceeded without too many hitches. Students have once again succeeded in bringing to the attention of the public our and also their concerns. Don't give up the fight!

Cat McKillop.



McLibel Trial Underway. East Timor Action - Wellington

The court case for two Greenpeace (London) activists charged with libel by McDonald's corporation, Dave Morris and Helen Steel, finally began on June 27th. The trial is expected to last three months, with a one month break in the middle. It follows 27 pre-trial hearings, some of which lasted five days, spread out over 3 and a half years.

Greenpeace (London) had called for an international day of support demonstrations to be held on June 25th. The Wellington McLibel Support Campaign picketed the Manners Mall outlet, getting a sympathetic response from the public, as well as coverage in several newspapers.

The McLibel trial, as it has become known, will hear 150 witnesses. 75 of them are testifying for Greenpeace (London) with 30 of that number being ex-McDonald's staff. The other 40 consist of experts in the fields of animal rights, health, unions and the environment. Morris and Steel are representing themselves as they cannot afford a lawyer, although they do have the help of a panel of 'McKenzie Friends' who are able to take notes to pass on to them, but not to represent them.

McDonald's have flown in eight of their top staff from the United

States and are represented by Richard Rampton QC, one of Britain's most expensive lawyers.

The trial has been covered in a number of newspapers and magazines around the world, several of which have commented that the trial is giving Greenpeace (London) a far bigger audience that it could have ever hoped to have reached otherwise.

Among the allegedly libellous statements that Greenpeace (London) are meant to have made on their leaflet about McDonald's is that the company uses beef from land cleared of rainforest. McDonald's denies this, but have later admitted to using beef from ex-rainforest land that they say was not "recently deforested". Richard Rampton QC was overruled in an attempt to block presentation of video evidence from a UK Channel 4 programme linking McDonald's with the use of beef from Costa Rica.

Helen Steel produced evidence in response to McDonald's denial of their food being unhealthy, stating that three US State Attorney-Generals demanded that McDonald's drop descriptions of its food as nutritious because this mislead customers.

For those wanting further information on the case you can send a donation in 45 cent stamps or cash to: Mc Libel Support Campaign, PO Box 14-156, Kilbirnie, Wellington.

McLibel Support Campaign.

Being the political and diplomatic hub of the country has meant we have been pretty busy on this issue! Over the last few months ETA has:

Hosted James Dunn from Australia. There was a public meeting, and he spoke to different politicians, select committees and MERT.

Demonstration outside the Defence Buildings protesting about military aid to Indonesia.

Excellent loud and disruptive demonstration outside the plush International Hotel when the Indonesian Embassy was having a celebration for their independence.

Abel Guterres is coming to town on the 12-13th of September. He is the Australia / Aotearoa representative for the Council for National Maubere Resistance, which is the umbrella group of the Timorese Resistance. He is in Aotearoa from 5-19 September and will also be in Dunedin, CHCH, Nelson, Wanganui, Palmerston North and Auckland.

Also on the drawing block is a day seminar on East Timor for those who want to learn more about the issue, and campaigning skills. Tentatively planned for the 25th of September.

Other direct actions are planned - feel free to come along to our meetings, every second Wednesday at 6pm at 264 Cuba St (24th August, 7th September...) or ring 382 8129 Joe for further information.

• Melanie Hutton.



PALMERSTON NORTH WITCHES FOR FREE EDUCATION

The Witches for Free Education are a newly formed coven in Palmerston North. Until recently they were just individual women, not realising their true magical powers that were destined to grow stronger in unity.

The Story:

In May, one of the witches (who had not yet discovered her spell-binding potential) was so enraged by the release of the Ministerial recommendations for tertiary education that her cauldron boiled over. She went to see her good friend, Jemima Cantpay, who was busy cleaning out her broom cupboard.

Together, they devised some spells so nasty that Jeff Todd was unable to sit down for weeks. After alerting the local paper and some other sisters, they flew into action.

That night was ripe. It was Friday the 13th none the less. The five witches danced and sang and cast spells around the normally unmagical city of Palmerston North. Jemima Cantpay even got her photo on the front page of the Manawatu Standard to prove it!

The Witches went into hiding for a short time afterwards. That is, they carried on as previously, not revealing their true identities and powers until the National Womens Week of Action. While all the other universities held mass rallies and marches in the streets, the coven (which had doubled in size by this time) planned and plotted. They cast a string of powerful spells which caused their voices to become as beautiful as a chorus of tuis. Students paused in their noontime victuals to watch (awestruck) the spectacle of

witches singing "The Ballad of Clementine" on Massey's Concourse and two cafeterias. (The song was written in a fit of creative passion by two witches Jemima Wontpay and Jemima Shouldntpay).

The finale to date was an appearance at the pre-budget march in balmy-Palmy. About thirteen witches (a nice number, don't you think?) managed to keep the marching protesters under control and out of trouble. They cast magical spells so that it wouldn't rain and no-one got arrested for the completely surprise (gosh!) burning of the Bill Birch effigy on Broadway Ave. At the rally concluding the march, the Witches for Free Education once again charmed the audience with a magical rendition of "Clemintine". Together with the Brazen Hussies (a way-groovy women's singing group from Palmerston North), the witches were a real hit. Couldn't have made for a better march! Oh yes, and there were some stimulating speakers from employment, education, union and health sectors as well.

...The story finishes but the magic goes on...

So that's what the Witches for Free Education have been doing in the Manawatu. A benevolent group of women who wing songs and like to wear black pointy hats in public. Who says that the campaign for free education can't be diversely thematic and fun?

THE BALLAD OF CLEMENTINE

(A real nineties student)
To the tune of "Oh my darling Clementine."

On a campus, in a city

Where students study all the time
Lived a prudent thrifty student
And her name was Clementine.

Had no money, wasn't funny
So she signed upon the line
Had her doubts but took a loan out
Though she'd pay it back in time.

Things don't look good, thanks to
Lockwood
Fees go up, now all the time
Two thousand this year, doubled
next year
Where's your money Clementine?

Todd and Lockwood say it's for
your good
While the big boys wine and dine
Get your degree, come and work
for me
Hollow promises, Clementine.

Wore a gown and got her paper
And she's feeling mighty fine
Wrote her C.V., watching T.V.
No-one wants Doctor Clementine.

She met Harry, and they were
married
And her children number nine
Two student loans and a mortgage
Interest growing all the time.

Had no credit, only debit
No surprise she turned to crime
What a worry, got no money
What's for dinner, Clementine?

Couldn't stand it, so she planned it
And she plunged into the brine
Now her children pay the interest
While she's buried deep in lime.

Chorus.... (changes throughout)

Oh my darling, oh my darling
Oh my darling, Clementine
User pays has come forever
Dreadful sorry, Clementine.

• Anna Fenwick
Palmerston North.

Cuts to Disability Allowance

The Government has been accused of cutting the lifeline to many beneficiaries. This follows a Government decision to remove counselling from the criteria for beneficiaries in receipt of the Disability Allowance. The Allowance is paid to beneficiaries and very low income earners coping with some form of ongoing illness or disability.

"Access to counselling is a lifeline for many beneficiaries. We predict an increase in crime, mental illness, family breakdown and suicide rates as a direct result of these policy changes." Says Quentin Jukes of the Wellington Peoples Resource Centre.

"For many beneficiaries access to a qualified councillor is their last hope. The Government has just removed that hope. There was a backdoor announcement of these cuts and that was it. The Minister of Social Welfare won't even meet with our groups to discuss the changes." Commented Mr Jukes.

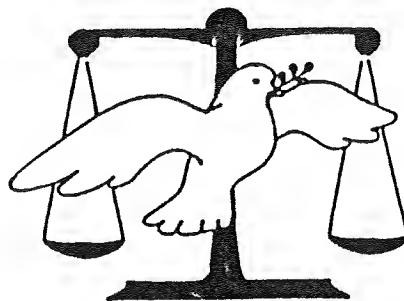
"The Government has no understanding of the realities for people trying to survive on a benefit in this country. How can they when they receive more in a couple of weeks than most beneficiaries do in a year. Our organisation is dealing with people on a daily basis for who counselling is the critical difference between being able to survive and move forward, and utter desperation and hopelessness." Commented Mr Jukes.

"This cut will immediately effect many of our members, in particular parents under stress and their children. If the Government is to do anything with the Disability Allowance they should be relaxing the criteria rather than tightening them." Concluded Mr Jukes.

• Quentin Jukes.

Hiroshima Day Resistance to Starlifter Flights

The United States Air Force maintains a base at Christchurch International Airport, Harewood, on the South Island of New Zealand. The base is primarily a support for the U.S. "Deep Freeze" operations in Antarctica. Twice a week, however, Starlifter flights touch down on en route to N.S.A. (National Security Agency) and C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) bases at Nurrungar and Pine Gap in Outback Australia. These bases provide intelligence and targeting information to the United States. This information is shipped out and supplies shipped in by these USAF Starlifter flights.



ACTION

On Hiroshima Day, August 6th 1994, Moana Cole and Ciaran O'Reilly, members of the Christchurch Catholic Worker community, entered the USAF base at Christchurch Airport. The pair of them made their way to the hangars that service the Starlifter flights. In memory of the victims of Hiroshima the pair spray painted shadows of silhouettes of the vaporised victims of the nuclear explosion in front of the hangars. They hung photographs of Hiroshima, the nuclear blast victims and vaporised shadows on the hangar. They then knelt in prayer holding signs "REPENT HIROSHIMA: RENOUNCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS" and

"HAREWOOD - A PIT STOP FOR THE US. WAR MACHINE". Thirty friends from the local peace community gathered at the front gate in support. The pair were eventually discovered by USAF personnel who contacted the US commander and local police. Moana and Ciaran were arrested and charged with trespass. They are presently out on bail awaiting trial.

TRIAL

Trial is set for October 18th at the Christchurch District Court. The Christchurch Catholic Worker community plans to continue regular vigils at Harewood approaching the trial gate. Action and celebration are planned for the eve of the trial. For more information, please contact: Catholic Worker, 8A Cotterill St. Addington, Christchurch 2, Aotearoa (New Zealand). Ph: (03) 3387105.



Activism and Employment

- Part one of a series

Probably nowhere else in the world can so few grassroots activists do so much as in Aotearoa. It's the perfect size and with the perfect social welfare system to allow it to happen.

But what I'm about to write comes from frustration. Over the years I've lost count of the number of keen activists who've arrived keen to change things only to leave again shortly after. For most idealistic people, full time activism is never more than a short interlude.

It's funny, they seem so keen, why don't they stay? Why, instead of having a strong grassroots network in this country, do we only have a tiny number of overworked grassroots activists?

If you've ever been to a protest you'll have heard those rednecks yelling "Go and get yourself a job." Everyone laughs. But there's your answer. The main reason activists walk off the job is to get a "real" job. That is, a job which pays, a proper job - like the rednecks tell them too.

It always leaves me speechless to see them being lured out by the very same things they've been fighting. It goes against everything else they believe in.

Instead of listening to what the rednecks (and 90% of our friends and families) think about living off the dole why don't good keen budding activists make up their own minds?

If you ask me, I think we're looking a gift horse in the mouth.

1. THE URGENT NEED FOR FULL TIME ACTIVISTS.

Don't blame everything on apathy. You only have to run a street stall

to know that isn't the problem. The problem is, beyond signing a petition when it's put in front of them, most people haven't a clue about how to get involved in politics. Democracy doesn't just happen, it needs to be organised.

If it's organised, it works well. For me the glimpses of what's possible have been the nuclear ban, the frigates campaign and MMP, where you could see people on TV talking your kind of sense, hear on the radio that such and such a bastard got hassled at the airport, or read in the paper that what Prime Minister so and so said yesterday was just proved a lie. When this happens grassroots politics is transformed a slog in the suburbs, only for die-hards, to something with the smell of power, success and fun that makes everyone want to get involved.

Always remember politics is a spectator sport. No one's going to want to jump the barrier and rush onto the field if it looks like we're going to lose. The other side mightn't be very attractive, but they're professional. If we want people to join our side we need to look like we're going to win.

To be even half competitive in politics today it's a virtual necessity to have full time activists. It's not simply a matter of having the extra hours. Being full time enables you to work at a completely different level of effectiveness and intensity, to compete more equally for media space by reacting to events not after you've got home from work or in the weekend, but as the story breaks. It means, if a group somewhere comes up with a bright idea, being able to get it going everywhere. With full time activists you can keep one step ahead of events instead of always being one

step behind.

Not only must organisations have full time activists but full time ones who stick around. You might win a campaign one year, but if you're not on the ball the next, the people whose paid career it is to thwart you will. An example is the nuclear warship ban which took 9 years of defence after the initial victory. Other campaigns haven't been lucky enough to have vigilant campaigners around to match the long term effort government and business can buy. A hotch potch of pot shotting activists isn't enough.

We have now, maybe, enough activists to provide a smattering of media coverage and to lobby and organise on a small scale. But the best thing on our side (other than being right) - all the people out there you agree with us - aren't doing anything. There's hundreds of thousands of them out there, thumping their armchairs in front of the 6 O'clock news, pontificating at dinner parties, and blowing the system up in clouds of dope smoke. But they won't do anything till their names, which fill up those "Yes, I want to help" lists over the country get rung up.

And that won't happen till we have more full time activists to get the momentum up and provide encouragement for more grassroots die hards out in the towns and suburbs.

But today enough people to even begin to tap into the potential support out there is probably impossible. Look at Greenpeace and Forest and Bird. They have tens of thousands of paying members but can only pay a handful of campaigners who barely have the time to keep up with

newsletter, media work and research let alone organise their keen subscribers.

F&B and Greenpeace could increase their membership ten fold but still not solve their problem. To make use of our potential public support we need a higher ratio of organisers to supporters than donations can ever provide. So it's no good blaming the lack of full time activists on apathy, or lack of support.

Instead, we might just have to use the dole.

2. THE DOLE

Going on the dole seems natural to me. Ever since the 5th form when the whole goody two shoes business of showing up studiously every day to get good reports and money and careers started up in earnest, the whole individualistic cult of writing your own glorious CV and having to grovel for jobs has repelled me.

That's not to say I don't know the satisfaction of earning money or winning a job. It just means that I see no point in joining a crowd. If there's a crush, I'll go somewhere I'm needed.

It's funny, but heaps of people I know are quite happy to rip the dole off as a sideline, but when it comes to using Social Welfare as their keep they feel uncomfortable. Siphoning a bit off as a naughty perks alright but treating the dole as your rightful keep goes against the grain.

To be able to go happily on the dole you need to FEEL it's alright. The first step is to get your brain around it. After that the heart follows for, in the way that I'm talking about it, there's nothing wrong with it.

PULLING YOUR WEIGHT.

Let's start with the complex people have about how everyone

should pull their weight. Well it's a noble and worthy thing to believe in, I do myself. But like most rules it's how you apply it that matters. Pulling your weight applies when you're crossing a river, a when the dishes need to be done, but not any more to going out and getting a paid job.

It might have been the case 100 years ago but in today's mega-mindless economy there's no weight to pull. The rope is slack. In the larger economy efforts by hoards of individuals to pull their weight only results in everyone falling over backwards.

We try to keep it civilised but it's a jungle. If we succeed in getting a job or in a business it's because someone else missed out. And if we miss out it's because someone got it instead. Either way the work gets done, but that's something most people don't want to think about. It's easier just to get up off the deck and have another go.

It suspicions about you being lazy are driving you to get a job, don't bother - give the job to some poor desperate job seeker, and the world will be a happier place. They should be thankful for it.

TIME KILLING

Even without massive unemployment, there'd still be no weight to pull. Nowadays, half of the respectable jobs around are unnecessary, and that's putting it gently. They're time fillers, the equivalent of that depression trick of digging holes and filling them in again.

We could close the tourist so called industry, half the airlines, the advertising so called industry, the beauty so called industry, the sports and fitness so called industry, and still have enough to eat, enough medical care, enough education and enough fun. I could go on, but the point is: if half the population wants to kill time like this, O.K., but don't let them kid

you into feeling you should be doing it too. The fearsome economic jargon is only an elaborate justification. Everyone's only working because, collectively, we don't know what else to do with our time.

OUR ENEMY WITHOUT AND WITHIN.

Still, listening to the radio these days you could be forgiven thinking civilisation is going to collapse because we don't have enough jobs to hold it up. It's very important though not to take the calls to work harder and create more jobs seriously until we sort out what really needs to be done and what's merely economic neurosis. Civilisation isn't collapsing because not enough work's been done. It's collapsing because we're doing too much. Mixed with mindless economics the old work habit, once necessary for survival, is killing us.

"Fulltime work for all" is a fools call. It only puts off the day when those hogging the money and the work will have to share. Meanwhile, amongst the present insanity calls for jobs only gives the bastards an excuse for more unwanted 'progress'.

When they try and sell the frigates, what's the argument they roll out? When you try and stop a power station what do you come up against? When Jim Bolger goes to Indonesia what comes before Human Rights? Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. In the current mindset jobs are the bane of every activists life.

Which is why when activists walk out the door to get one of those bloody jobs I'm too stunned to make the words come out. The country doesn't need an activist in a paid job any more than it needs the unemployed building frigates.

It we weren't so damn individualistic we could share money, work, and spare time and people wouldn't be so insecure

and wouldn't fall for those lousy bribes. And if people weren't so damned individualistic, they'd see that being an activist on the dole is part and parcel of a collective philosophy. Joining the job mob only plays into the hands of the right wingers who love to see people competing against each other.

So if you want to pull your weight look at the big picture and think what's needed, not what's expected individually.

We'll always have enough people filling anything that pays but I can't see us ever having enough activists. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but if you want to make yourself useful, there's always a wide variety of work that needs doing.

WHAT YOU'RE WORTH OR WHAT YOU NEED?

But there's more perversity to build immunity to. Like the sheer lunacy of refusing to accept an occupation as proper unless it's paid.

As if money was a reliable measure of worth! We don't charge each other for the housework do we? And out in the "real" world, Saatchi and Saatchi, or half the parasites working the stock exchange, what good are they? Yet, all other things being equal, many, probably most, people would rather do something useless that's paid than something useful that isn't. Time and again, economics overrides commonsense and produces contradictions. You aren't contributing anything unless you're getting paid. Those who contribute the least usually get paid the most. No wonder people flip out.

To proudly say what you do is worth just as much as any other job misses the point. Trying to measure ourselves or recognise each others achievements with money is an endless, impractical

game where some of us end up with ridiculous amounts of money while others sink below the breadline. If we ever solve it, it will be done by bearing in mind that once the satisfaction of a job well done was reward in itself and people were happy enough with sufficient to be comfortable. It worked in the past and it's working

unofficially now with single parents on the DPB, with musos and dancers on the dole, with superannuants too, but alas not with activists. Perhaps activism being too like a "serious" job has got something to do with it.

Fergus Wheeler.

Part two appears next month!

The Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea - victim of painful injustice.

The DPRK (with Cuba) are the only countries carrying on the system of socialism which has given their populations for the first time in their history universal education, health, social security and freedom from want with full employment for all. However the abolition of the private ownership of the means of production in industry and agriculture - leading to the above mentioned popular results - has led to undying hatred of these socialist countries by the owners of large scale trans-national capital. At present the DPRK is targeted as "the enemy" and all possible means are being used to strangle and destroy its economy. The means employed are two: Huge and constant military manoeuvres, introducing US weapons of mass destruction, are carried out in South Korea and around the entire Korean peninsula. Very little of this is allowed to be published in the American-controlled press and DPRK is used to siphon economic resources away from peaceful improvement of the people's livelihood - and hypocritical articles are published about shortage of consumer goods in DPRK. In addition the second attack is under way: the public relations assault on the DPRK. It is accused of keeping an army to defend itself. In addition it is being accused of preparing the building of atomic weapons.

Without ever asking for or listening to the DPRK side a mighty public relations campaign is carried out

over television, radio and the printed word preparing the world's people for the military and economic destruction of the DPRK, using countless lies and half truths and presenting selected pictures and false reports.

Thus we see before our eyes the infringement of the concept of natural justice which demands that when a person is accused you must hear both sides before you pass judgement. That the DPRK is involved in this shameless campaign is tragic.

The DPRK's Argument

1. President Kim Il Sung said ; concerning non-building of nuclear weapons:

"We have developed nuclear facilities by our own efforts and technology to strengthen the country's power industry base. We have neither any intention nor capability to develop nuclear weapons. We feel no need to develop them and even if we were to manufacture one or two of them they would be useless. The government of our republic is striving consistently to realise the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula."

2. While the DPRK has no nuclear weapons, South Korea has large nuclear potential's:

a) South Korea is still occupied by the US military. It is not clear

whether the US military have withdrawn all their (up to a thousand) nuclear weapons from South Korea or whether there are still some present. A nuclear inspection of South Korea, including US facilities is required. But the US-inspired campaign is only for North Korean inspection.

b) The US possesses nuclear capable bases in Okinawa Guam and other places close to the DPRK and encourages and takes part in huge war manoeuvres against the DPRK each year, code-named Operation Team Spirit. The manoeuvres are continuing and frighten and alarm the citizens of the DPRK perpetually. They must be discontinued.

c) South Korea possesses already eight nuclear power stations. South Korean newspapers have published reports from which it can be concluded that South Korea has accumulated 10 tons of plutonium and is doing active research for the development of atomic weapons. No demand for control or inspection by US or UN.

3. Japan has stockpiled 26 tons of plutonium, enough to produce 3000 Nagasaki type bombs and plans the accumulation of 100 tons by the year 2010. While a signatory of the Atomic Non-Proliferation-Agreement no demands have been made on Japan to have her activities controlled and inspected.

4. Further away Israel and Pakistan are clear producers of

atomic weapons without interference by US or UN.

5. The DPRK is not opposed to control of nuclear activities. It is opposed to control of its entire territory and defence activity (in its state of being under constant threat of invasion from US and the South).

6. The DPRK's positive contributions to the solution of the US Pentagon and CIA created problem are:

a) It has submitted to six inspections by the UN Atomic Energy Control Commission.

b) It has allowed and will continue to allow continuing checks of the seals and control measures installed by the UN Commission (which acts on US instructions).

c) It has temporarily withdrawn from the international Non-Proliferation Treaty so no longer is compelled to follow orders by the Commission concerning "ad hoc inspections" in locations outside the declared atomic energy centres. No longer being compelled by the treaty to do so, the DPRK considers that existing safeguard inspections are a voluntary contribution to international peace.

Contrariwise the pressure exerted to comply with orders, the DPRK considers against international law and an intervention by aggressive forces hostile to the DPRK.

d) The DPRK wants to establish a position of co-operation by US-

DPRK talks in which

- Preparations are made for a peace treaty between the DPRK and USA (at present they are officially still involved in a war which was finished only by an "Armistice agreement").

- The DPRK gives up the production of atomic energy by heavy-water graphite moderated processes which produce plutonium. Instead US supply light-water moderated installations which are unsuitable for weapon production.

- The entire Korean peninsula is made subject to denuclearisation in conversations between the DPRK and the South Korean authorities.

Both China and Russia have given indications that they will favour such negotiations. On the other hand powerful forces in the US are absolutely hawkish and want to use sanctions and force to strangle and ultimately destroy the socialist system existing in the DPRK.

New Zealand, being a member of the UN Security Council should use its position as a mediator and peace maker. The public of New Zealand should resist the one-sided and frantic war propaganda turned out by the associated new media.

NZ-DPRK Society

Action Alert - South Korean Government represses Railway and Subway workers.

A strike by subway workers and national railway workshops and locomotive drivers has triggered the biggest confrontation yet between the democratic union

movement and the so-called democratic government of South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

By the time Korean railway

workers had ended their one week strike on 1 July 1994 arrest warrants for 18 union leaders had been issued, charges laid against another 41, 320 union members had been dismissed, over 1,000

had been detained for short periods and the railway company had declared it would penalise another 2,800 workers.

The subway workers had been negotiating with their employer since 21 April for a wage increase to off-set the cost of living increases over the past few years. After 11 negotiating sessions and the refusal of the company to offer anything above the 3% guideline the Government had imposed for public service workers, the workers decided to strike from 24 June. The strike was also called in reaction to the raid by police on the office of the railway workers the day before.

The Railway Engineers Federation had different demands. They were not seeking a wage increase, but were seeking the application of the Standard Labour Law as regards the 8 hour day, overtime payments and holidays to their work. Currently railway workers have to work horrific hours with little time off to be with their families. Workers are required to work up to 300-360 hours per month, often on shifts of 24 hours at a time. Waiting time between jobs is not paid. On average workers only spend 9-15 nights at home per month. An average of 18 deaths and 147 injuries of railway workers occur each year. The Government has announced it is intending to corporatise the Railways and reduce the workforce by 5,300 workers.

Following a raid of combat police on the office of the Railway Union (KTUC-Chongihyup) on 23 June at which 600 union members were detained, the railway union decided to launch its strike immediately. The Government response was hysterical. Calling the strike 'illegal' 5,000 police launched a re-dawn raid on 3 university campuses where they believed members of the Subway union were staying. On Sunday 26 June police raided the National Council of Churches building

where members of the Railway Union were meeting church leaders and detained a further 270 workers. Not even under the years of military dictatorship was this building ever raided!

In reply to this the Korean Trade Union Representatives Meeting (the umbrella group of democratic trade unions) called for a nationwide stoppage from 27 June; immediately 30 unions endorsed the strike with many others preparing to vote on the issue.

However on 30 June, after a call from the Catholic Archbishop Kim Su-Hwan, an emergency mass meeting of strikers decided to end the strike out of concern for the safety of the public. The government was trying to continue to run the railway and subway operations with no maintenance and no regard to other safety requirements. A return to work took place on 1 July.

The struggle continues however with an indefinite sit-in at the Myong Dong Cathedral. Twenty church leaders, including APWSL activists Rev. Chin from Young Dong Po Urban Industrial Mission, are on hunger strike in protest against the 26 June raid on the National Council of Churches Building. A further mass meeting of the union members was held on 5 Jul which began the fight against the arrests, charges and penalties arising from the strike, to consolidate the union leadership and to prepare for a new strike.

The demands of the Subway and Railway workers are:

withdrawal of the government's unjust wage guidelines.
Resume wage negotiations.
Withdraw the variable working hours system.
Uphold clauses 45 (holidays) and 46 (working hours) of the Standard Labour Law.
Withdraw the penalties, warrants of arrest and charges on the more than 3,000 workers.

Reform the labour law to comply with the ILO standards especially to remove the draconian "third party interference" and "compulsory arbitration - no strike" clause.

Please urgently fax your support to Railways and Subway Workers Unions:

Railway Union Fax: 82-2-765 5855
Joint strike committee Fax: 82-2-743 4363

Please urgently fax letters of protest including the demands of the unions to:

President Kim Young-Sam
Fax: 82-2-720 2686
Labour Minister Jae Hee-Nam
Fax: 82-2-503 7171
Transport Minister Oh Myung
fax: 82-2-504 9114

Please respond to this Action Alert. South Korean Police have raided three more universities since this article was written. Thousands took part in the assaults. Hundreds of students have been injured and detained.

**Source: Worker Link, July 1994.
Newsletter of the Asia Pacific
Workers Solidarity Links
(Aotearoa). P.O. Box 13367,
Johnsonville, Wellington.**

In case you are wondering if action alerts ever make a difference - APWSL Aotearoa made the recent Ferry dispute an action alert. The Seafarers Union recieved messages of support from all across the Asian and Pacific regions. The Bosses would have got them too! This support is crucial for applying international pressure and for building the confidence of activists and campaigners. **TAKE ACTION!!!**

Letters to the Network

Dear AYN,

With regard to Alistair Shaw's letter (AYN Newsletter, July 1994) on the response to the war in Bosnia; the issues he mentions have not been ignored by the peace movement, as he claims. The peace movement has been unable to respond strongly for the simple reason that the movement does not have the people power required to maintain a high level of expertise regarding every single conflict in the world. Until the recent decision to commit NZ troops to the conflict, the war in the former Yugoslavia was a low-priority to the peace movement given the number of issues it is currently addressing. For the same reasons, the peace has not had a strong public stance on the recent wars in Lebanon, Burundi, Rwanda, Yemen, Angola, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Myamner, Peru, Georgia, Khazakistan, Kurdistan and West Papua.

Issues regarding the suitability of soldiers as peace keepers have been widely discussed in the peace movement (See, for instance; Peacelink, issues 105 and 107; Nuclear-Free, June, 1994), with the general conclusion being that soldiers are not the best people for the job. Personally, I think the peace movement probably has a more negative view of the NZ military than it deserves, certainly soldiers are much more than "trained killers" as Alistair Shaw dubs them. Remember that it was direct action by the soldiers themselves that almost brought World War One to a standstill.

While working for peace in ones community is essential, why should we recognise the artificial nation-state boundaries that are imposed upon us? The peace movement could effectively challenge the government's position by ignoring its monopolisation of international relations and actively supporting the peace movements in Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, etc. Of course, what can be done with the resources available to the peace

movement will be limited, but perhaps the peace movement could learn something from the internationalism of the early Trade Union movements?

**Yours, &c.
Sam Buchanan.**

Dear AYNers,

Thank you for continuing to send me the mag - I reckon you're doing a great job in keeping me aware of the flaws in the society we live in, on a level where it is difficult to get information through the mainstream media. Concise, informative, and revealing, your network, our network organised around a key group of impassioned people who have only the betterment of humankind as a goal, something which can only be applauded! Keep up the good work!

**Yours faithfully,
Clayton Murray
Dunedin.**

[Thanks Clayton, I thought the whole network might like to read this letter. Ed.]

Dear AYNers,

My thoughts on the "newsletter" is that it should act as a medium for information that never finds its way into the mainstream media. Alternative viewpoints, etc., things that we don't hear about.

**M. Southerwood
Whakatane.**

Kia ora AYNers,

Update from the Hamilton Young Workers Resource Centre.

Our primary activity is to inform young people about their Rights, Duties and Obligations in employment. Young workers are particularly vulnerable to inexperience

in the workplace, and the authority relationship between them selves and the boss. There is also an assumption that young people have the necessary skills and knowledge to be able to assert themselves in an employment situation, but no one was responsible for providing such information until we came along in November 1993.

Our other important activities are empowering young people to become active and vocal persons in the community.

Hamilton has 43% of its population under 25, yet have no Youth Council nor Council representative under the age of 40. Secondary school students have been encouraged to make submissions to the Draft Annual Plan to ask for support to set up a Youth Council which has recently been supported and moves are now afoot to have one set up by the end of the year in consultation with those students.

There has also been a very active campaign about Youth Rates run by the Youth Action Committee (YAC), a group of secondary students who initially got together through the Young Workers Resource Centre. The campaign has involved speaking on Radio Pacific, (and being called communists!), a petition, a public meeting of school students which had 130 people attend, placards on the five Hamilton bridges, helping set up a campaign in Auckland and haranguing MPs.

YAC students have been involved in the protests against higher tertiary fees and have been asked to speak on behalf of secondary students at rallies.

One student won one of the twenty positions throughout the country to represent fellow youth at the Youth Employment Summit recently in Wellington. She was privileged to eat in the kitchen at Bellamys and have fish and chips at the Park Royal (how patronising). Rebecca rubbed shoulders with a rampant young

Letters to the Network Continued...

ACT member, and 18 other students who basically felt quite uninformed about employment issues. They were addressed by politicians, various employment related spokes people and were expected to make recommendations on behalf of New Zealand youth.

The activities of YAC highlighted the importance of communication between secondary schools and have led to the setting up of an Interschool Council. The interschool Council have organised the G Spot (controversial name) in order to excite people into attending an entertainment by school bands. Approximately 600 students attended a very successful night, we made lots of money and we will do it again!

The students are gaining lots of self-confidence, learning how to battle bureaucracy and gaining the experience of being politically active.

Youth in Hamilton are becoming empowered and will be the movers and shakers (with a conscience) in the future of Aotearoa.

Catherine Hodges.

Some thoughts on the National Peace Workshops

He mea pai rawa ki ahau kia kitea, I roto i te putanga 14, ngaa kupu puumahara a Paul Smith e pa ana ki toona tumanako. Araa, a Te Hui Waawau kei te haere mai nei, ka whakaaroaro te Peace Movement Aotearoa he wa roa ake mo eetahi koororero tike e pa ana ki ngaa whakaaro o Te Hunga Hohou-Rongo ki ngaa wawata Maaori, naa

te mea tino hiranga hoki o eenaaki te rangimaarie me te tika o te whenua, ko Aotearoa nei.

It was good to see, in issue 14, the works of Paul Smith regarding the need for Peace Movement Aotearoa to allow an appropriate amount of time at the next Peace Workshops for a decent discussion of bicultural and related issues, in recognition of their importance to peace and justice in our own backyard.

Naa te mea, te tino tere o te wa, me taku piirangi ki te whakapotoina te hooahaatanga o koutou, ka huri au inaaiane ki te reo Ingarangi anake.

Since reading Paul's reflections I have been wondering if there is much I can do, with limited time and limited influence, as someone who has relatively recently returned to the 'Movement' after an absence of 11 years, to ensure that the space he seeks is provided and that the discussion is as fruitful as possible. The range of views within the movement on this extremely challenging subject is obviously enormous, but my impression is there are three broad clumps of opinion:

One small group who see the Movement's continued failure to move on this issue as a cop out and are confident enough of their own relationship with and understanding of Maaori to point this out, with suggestions for

change.

A group roughly at the opposite end of the view scale, who want the Movement's focus to remain solely on the very much less threatening and less difficult overseas issues where their experience, knowledge, reputation and hence power base lies. I'm not sure about the size of this group, but they seem to be very effective.

A large clump in the middle, of those who are at various stages of nervous awareness that something needs to be done but who are not yet able to work out what they can personally do.

Some small progress was made at Tapu Te Ranga, undoubtedly aided by the Wairau of the Whare, but the question needs to be asked - 'At the pace Kuia Pauline Tangiora's cows are going, when will the first one get through the gate, let alone the last!'

I agree with Paul and hope PMA will allow a whole day for discussion on this important subject next year and I urge anyone who agrees to start lobbying now.

Noo reira e hoa maa, teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou katoa.

• **John Tovey.**



CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

We call on the solidarity
of all groups and
individuals of the Network

June 1994



WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

NZ VOORBURG WAL 32
1012 RZ AMSTERDAM
THE NETHERLANDS
TEL (31-20) 620 96 72
FAX (31-20) 622 24 50

Tresnjevka Women's Group and the Alliance des Femmes pour la Démocratie urge you to support them in the following appeal.

International Appeal to Have Rapes Committed in Former Yugoslavia

Prosecuted and Condemned as Crimes Against Humanity

March 8, 1994, International Women's Day, marks the beginning of a campaign to have rape recognized as a war crime and a crime against humanity.

Despite the negotiations and the hopes for peace, massive and systematic rapes continue today in former Yugoslavia. It is estimated that up to 45 camps still exist where Muslim and Croatian women are raped and forcibly impregnated.

Rape, which has always been used as a weapon of war, has never been recognized as such and even less as a crime against humanity, a crime against women. The rapists have rarely had to answer for their actions.

The International War Tribunal created by the UN in May 1993 to judge crimes of human rights violations committed in Former Yugoslavia, will convene this Summer in The Hague, the Netherlands. In Resolution 827 of the UN Security Council, which determines which crimes will be prosecuted by the International War Tribunal, it is stated that "Rapes... for political, racial or religious reasons" are considered "crimes against humanity". But the resolution is not enough by itself; it needs international support to be implemented.

Only the condemnation by the International War Tribunal of the rapists and the instigators of rape as criminals against humanity, can ensure justice is served. Only the prosecution of rape as a crime against humanity can contribute to having them cease in Former Yugoslavia, in Rwanda, in Somalia, in Djibouti...

Please sign this Appeal and send it to:

Tresnjevka Women's Group
Pantovcak 84, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia, tel/fax +385 41 440 103/102

Alliance des Femmes pour la Démocratie
5 Rue de Lille, 75007 Paris, France, fax +33 1 4222 6273

Name

Address

Signature

WGNRR is a worldwide autonomous network of groups and individuals who are working for and support reproductive rights for women: the right of women to decide whether, when and how to have children.

Networking - A Summary so far...

Richard, Hamish, Cathy and Marky: In issue 12 they suggested a syndicate system, the sending out of the original copy of AYN so local groups can add a local page before photocopying this for the people in their networks. Suggestions for a networking debate, etc. This has already begun. They also suggest rotating the layout work regionally.

Questions to put to the network:

How many people in the network are in a position to do this photocopying for their own regions and how do regional co-ordinators (regional contacts) feel if this was a responsibility that they could carry out if they wanted to? If the layout work was rotated regularly, how often would this be, who is in a position to take this on and how would the mailing system work so people know where to send their contributions each month? How would this work financially? Would groups pay extra for the original copy of Aotearoa Youth Network so that the primary editorial collective could keep the magazine going financially?

National Peace Workshops:

During this workshop commitment was given to keeping a networking debate going, and reaching out to others in the network through AYN. AYN is not a name that some felt should be used for their own demonstrations but could be used to set up AYN networking groups in their own areas, video evenings, etc. The newsletter should be as much for other young people who are not students!

Regional Contacts:

The job description suggested by people so far.
These are very important people

for developing a network! It was suggested that mailing lists be sent to contacts in own areas so some confidentiality is kept. It is these people that can be rang for information. A certain amount of commitment is needed from these people.

Job description:

To pass information on to others in their areas, collect subscriptions to be sent on to Dunedin, to write in regularly about what is going on in their areas. Also, to build a support group and even organise video evenings or discussion nights to bring other people into the AYN network. Skills workshops were also suggested. If people want to photocopy the newsletter and sell it at the suggested price of \$1.50 each, then the money either should be passed on to Dunedin or a discussed amount if some is needed to pay for the photocopying. E-mail information is fantastic!

Networking suggestions from Austin:

People who are regional co-ordinators should have the mailing lists. The names of people's groups or the areas they live in should be published with the names of contributors to the magazines. There is a lack of policy in AYN as it is not an organisation, so it should be up to the network to respond.

Questions:

Perhaps the people in the network could trust those putting the magazine together to decide what the consensus is?? We have actually published everything that has been sent to us - eventually! Austin also brings up the freedom

of speech debate - a long and difficult one - from a feminist perspective I often find that so-called freedom of speech actually silences a lot of women and disempowers them by taking away their voice - how do other people feel about this? Perhaps the phrasing in the beginning section could say "Contributions that are overtly homophobic, racist or sexist can be very offensive to groups that are already marginalised by mainstream society. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why." Could people write in if they disagree with this statement and suggest something else. If no-one does then I will insert this paragraph into the *What is Aotearoa Youth Network* section in the front instead of the original last paragraph.

- Cybele Locke
Dunedin.

We need more Regional Contacts/Co-ordinators!!!

These people are extremely necessary for ensuring that AYN continues to act as a networking tool. If you are interested or know of people who are, please write in and let us know who you are. Suggested responsibilities of these contacts have been suggested in the article above and in previous issues.

Regional Contacts

Auckland:

David Flemming
33b Birdwood Cres.
Parnell

Hamilton:

Dale Frew
PO Box 9578
Ph: 824-4480
(With support of others -
Eddie? Stef?)

Napier:

Ivan Tabor
32 Plunket St.
Ph: 844-4603
(If anyone else from Napier is
keen to be a contact please
contact Dunedin.)

Palmerston North:

Duncan Killiner
17 Worcester St.
or
c/o MUSA
Post Box
Massey University.
Ph: 357-4121
Fax: 354-2756
(Jamie Bichan and Steve
Collett can also be contacted
about AYN.)

Wellington:

Amy Roundtree
13 Hall St.
Newtown
Ph: 389-7665.
(There is also a Wellington
AYN support group in the
process of being set up. Con-
tact Amy for details.)

Nelson:

Kate McPherson
23 Wellington St
Ph: 548-9036
(If Kate is not at home ask her
flatmates for details about
AYN)

Christchurch:

Melanie Thomson
39 Holly Rd.
Ph: 355-7975
(If anyone else from Christch-
urch would like to be a contact
please get in touch with the
collective in Dunedin and
Melanie in Christchurch)

Dunedin:

Cybele Locke
17 Blacks Rd.
North East Valley
Ph: 473-0684.

The E-mail address for AYN is:
kyle.matthews@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Networks To Belong to:

Street Art Aotearoa is a network
that attempts to bring together
people working for fundamental
economic, political, and social
change from a grassroots base.
The special strength in this network
is that we use music, art and drama
to convey our political messages.
Contact: Lisa Beech
31 Park View Ave, Fielding.
- Making a song and dance about it-

Common Ground is the new news-
letter of the Peoples Network arising
out of the Building Our Own Future
project. Activists in the peoples
movement were brought together
from many regional and sectoral
groups. A peoples charter was
formulated to be use as a cam-
paigning tool in the community. The
newsletter is used to keep these
new networks alive and to communi-
cate our different work and issues.
For 5 issues in a year, please send
\$10 to Common Ground, PO Box
3813, Auckland.

Dear AYNers

Well the year is creeping by
at a pretty fast pace, how-
ever, the articles and letters
still keep coming, informing
everyone of how busy activ-
ists have been this year. You
will all notice, I suspect, that
the Regional Update column
is missing - we promise it will
be there next month! The
reporting of different regions
is still in the magazine but
spread throughout AYN in
article form. Having just
come back from a National
Women's Gathering in Karioi
(near Raglan), I am filled
with enthusiasm about a new
network of women acting
through the University Wom-
en's Information Network.
Look out for the article next
month! In case you are
interested about the people
who put together AYN each
month, I thought we would
write a brief description of
who we are and what we do
in next month's AYN - so
watch out for that! Articles
and letters are flooding in so
be quick if you want to send
something in for next issue.
Look after yourselves and
watch out for activist burn out
(often a result of working too
hard, stress and lack of
relaxation and sleep).

Arohanui e hoa maa
Cybele, Joss, Kyle and
Mel.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$9 UNWAGED
\$18 WAGED
\$25 ORGANISATION
\$50 INSTITUTION.

THIS SUBSCRIPTION IS FOR A WHOLE YEAR.
HOWEVER, IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD THIS
PLEASE SEND US YOUR ADDRESS AND WE
WILL SEND YOU THE MAGAZINE.



Aotearoa Youth Network
111 Moray Place
Dunedin